

access he was unable to find any reference which would suggest anything other than a univoltine life history.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Hancock for searching through literature and generously giving his time and advice in response to requests for information and comment.— M.H. SMITH, 42 Bellefield Crescent, Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 8SR.

***Euproctis similis* (Fuess.) (Lep.: Lymantriidae) double-brooded**

This common species is recorded, in all the standard reference books I have been able to consult, as single-brooded in the British Isles. Here, at Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, the species is common and occurs from early July until, perhaps, the end of August. Until this year the latest date on which I have seen the species was 6.ix.1956, on Holker Moss (SD3381). Last year, 1995, the first date for the species in my trap was rather late on 24 July. On 14.x.1995 I found a male specimen in good condition resting on my house and within some ten metres of the m.v. trap. The next day this (presumed) specimen was inside the near-by utility room entangled in a spider's web and dead. On 16.x., again only a few yards from the trap and resting on the outside of a garden shed, was a fine fresh male. It seems to me quite certain that these specimens must have been second-brood examples. Looking through the records kept by the late Dr R.C. Lowther of Grange-over-Sands I find he records three specimens taken at his front door electric light on 7.x.1947 – but as far as I know he did not publish details of these also second brood examples.

Perhaps it is worth recording that second brood examples of *Aplocera plagiata* (L.) and *Herminia tarsipennalis* (Trietschke) were also noted in 1995. My first date for *A. plagiata* was 13.vi.1995 and (presumed) second generation specimens taken on 15.viii. and 5.ix.. *H. tarsipennalis* was common from mid-June to the end of July. I took a fresh specimen in my trap on 10 October. I note that in Heath and Emmet (1983, *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* 10: 396), it is stated “. . . in this hot summer of 1947 single wild specimens were caught on 27 August and later.” I think the summer of 1995 could be considered a “hot” one!— NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Beardwood, Carter Road, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7AG.

A possible third brood specimen of the Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolis* (L.) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in Cambridge

After having been absent, or perhaps just not seen, in my Cambridge garden during 1994, it was a pleasant surprise to see this butterfly return in 1995 with several dozen of the second brood being seen in July/August when it was also seen in Cambridge marketplace. However, the most surprising sighting was of a female in the grounds of Pembroke College on 13 October and I feel that the extremely hot weather we had had must have induced this to be a third generation specimen.— BRIAN O.C. GARDINER, 2 Highfield Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2AL.